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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Prescription drug abuse has recently been classified as an epidemic by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

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WHEREAS, The consequences of our nation's fastest growing drug problem are spreading throughout Illinois, particularly in metropolitan areas; and

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WHEREAS, Between 2004 and 2008, the estimated number of emergency department visits linked to the non-medical use of prescription pain relievers doubled; and

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WHEREAS, The increase in the percentage of admissions for abuse of pain relievers spans every age, gender, race, ethnicity, educational level, employment level, and region of the State; and

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WHEREAS, Many individuals who misuse prescription drugs, particularly teens and some parents, believe these substances are safer than illicit drugs because they are prescribed by a healthcare professional and dispensed by a pharmacist; and

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WHEREAS, According to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, among persons aged 12 or older who used pain

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1     relievers non-medically in the past 12 months, 55.9% got the  
2     pain relievers they most recently used from a friend or  
3     relative for free; and

4             WHEREAS, Drug-induced deaths now outnumber gunshot deaths  
5     in America and are fast approaching motor vehicle crashes as  
6     the leading cause of injury-related death; and

7             WHEREAS, The Obama Administration recognizes the need to  
8     balance prevention, education, and enforcement, with the need  
9     for legitimate access to these controlled substances; and

10            WHEREAS, The 2011 Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan  
11     reflects a national consultation process through which the  
12     Director of National Drug Control Policy consulted with mayors,  
13     health care professionals, law enforcement officials, and  
14     other local community leaders to identify the best approaches  
15     to use in combating prescription drug abuse; and

16            WHEREAS, As a result of numerous visits to communities  
17     ravaged by prescription drug abuse, President Obama's  
18     Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan reflects a  
19     multifaceted approach that brings together a variety of  
20     federal, state, local, and tribal entities; and

21            WHEREAS, The Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan

1 highlights 4 elements to help reduce the abuse of prescription  
2 drugs: education, prescription drug monitoring programs,  
3 proper medication disposal, and enforcement; and

4 WHEREAS, The policies outlined in the Prescription Drug  
5 Abuse Prevention Plan, when implemented, should reduce public  
6 spending while improving public health; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Senate  
9 declares June 2012 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month  
10 in the State of Illinois and recognizes the Prescription Drug  
11 Abuse Prevention Plan's call to:

12 1) educate the public about the dangers of abusing  
13 prescription drugs;

14 2) implement and enhance prescription drug monitoring  
15 programs in every state;

16 3) decrease the supply of unused prescription drugs in  
17 homes; and

18 4) provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to  
19 eliminate improper prescribing practices and stop "doctor  
20 shopping" and drug-seeking behaviors.